

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Karen Larimore Wilkinson

City of Salisbury

Public Information and Communications

City Hall, 217 South Main Street

Salisbury, North Carolina 28144

Work Phone: 704-638-2113 Cell: 704-213-1050

Home Phone: 704-633-7123

Information: <http://www.salisburync.gov>

Work Email Contact: kwilk@salisburync.gov

Widow of NFL Legend Reggie White to Deliver Keynote Address at Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Breakfast

Sara White to Speak at Twenty-Third Annual Celebration on Monday, January 19

Salisbury, NC_January 7, 2009 – The Salisbury-Rowan Human Relations Council proudly announces Sara White, wife of late NFL legend Reggie White, will serve as keynote speaker at the twenty-third annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Breakfast on Monday, January 19. The celebration, to be held at The Event Center (Cornerstone Church Campus), 315 Webb Road, will commence at 7:30 am and kicks-off a day of city-wide festivities honoring the national holiday. Those interested in attending may contact Ruth Kennerly of the City of Salisbury's Human Resources Department at 704-638-2168.

Reginald Howard "Reggie" White (1961-2004), nicknamed the "Minister of Defense", married the former Sara Copeland in 1985. The couple had two children, Jeremy and Jecolia. White's football expertise and ordination as a Baptist minister made him one of football's most popular players and remembered as an inexhaustible "sacker" throughout his years in college, the USFL, and the NFL. Reggie's community work and religious antidotes were as well-known as his reputation as one of football's greatest defensive ends. Following games and while still dripping with sweat, the legend consistently utilized TV interviews to uplift and praise the name of Jesus.

His NFL career spanned fifteen seasons and included 232 games and 198 sacks. White helped lead the Green Bay Packers to two Super Bowls, including a victory in Super Bowl XXXI. The following year, Reggie was named the 1998 NFL Defensive Player of the Year. He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2002 and enshrined into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, on August 4, 2006. During his later years, the football marvel traveled to Israel, learned the Hebrew language, and studied the Torah. White died at his home on December 26, 2004 at the age of 43.

Mayor Susan Kluttz, speaking on behalf of the Salisbury City Council and the Salisbury-Rowan Human Relations Council shares, "We are sincerely honored and welcome Mrs. Sara White as keynote speaker to our annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. Dr. King had a dream. He envisioned racial harmony and acceptance for all people. He dreamed of the future possibilities for all races with opportunity to freely acquire an education, pursue a career, or to serve in public office. He believed that success could be obtained by working together to change lives." Continuing, Mayor Kluttz offers, "NFL Football legend Reggie White shared a similar vision and believed in a community filled with love

and acceptance. His engaging spirit, compassion for others, and community support were contagious throughout his lifetime and remain present and with us, still today. By embracing our differences with love, understanding, and acceptance, both of these great men guide us to explore possibilities and to expand the potential for all races. Their lives inspire us to reach beyond the limits of today, with hope for a better tomorrow.”

The Humanitarian Breakfast will commence at 7:30 am, followed by an 8 am program. Entertainment will be provided by the Catawba Madrigals. Tickets to the Humanitarian Breakfast are \$7 each and are available from Ruth Kennerly at the number listed above, or by contacting Darlene Boling, Rowan County, at 704-216-8105, or Bob Setzer, F&M Bank, 704-637-1562, ext. 217. Tickets are also available from MLK Steering Committee members and from members of the Salisbury Rowan Human Relations Council. Food Lion is the 2009 Presenting Sponsor for the event. Event Sponsors include Rowan Regional Medical Center, Cornerstone Church, F&M Bank, Miller Davis Studios, Bank of North Carolina, and PFLAG.

A Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Parade will take place in Salisbury, following the breakfast celebration. The procession will begin on Main Street at 11 am and proceed to the Livingstone College Campus. Registration deadline is by January 12 and there is no parade entry fee. Interested parties should contact Terri Stevenson at 704-216-6272 for more information. The parade is scheduled to conclude by 12:30 pm.

In addition, Livingstone College will host a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration entitled “In the Spirit of Unity and Service: Remember! Celebrate! Act!” at Tubman Theatre, 2 pm. For more information regarding the Monday, January 19 afternoon service, please contact Terri Stevenson at 704-216-6272.

Additional events, commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be held throughout the weekend. The 32nd Annual Humanitarian Awards will take place at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 1920 Shirley Avenue, on Sunday, January 18 at 3 pm. For more information, please contact the church at 704-637-0954. The VA Medical Center will host a Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration on Friday, January 16 at 1:30 pm. The program of remembrance and celebration featuring keynote speaker and president of the Salisbury NAACP, Dr. Bryant Norman, Jr., will take place in the Social Room, Building 6, at 1601 Brenner Avenue. Special parking will be available in front of Building 6. For more information, please contact Rev. Ethel Revis at 704-636-3330.

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